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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, There are an estimated 25,000 youth in Illinois who experience homelessness in the course of a year, 15,000 of whom represent Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Approximately 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT), yet LGBT youth make up less than 7% of the general youth population; and

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WHEREAS, Stable housing is not only a basic necessity to maintain health and youth safety, it also aids academic achievement, employment seeking and stability, healthy living, and positive adolescent development; and

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WHEREAS, Homeless youth face many daily challenges such as lack of sufficient food, lack of access to physical and mental health care, lack of information and treatment of substance dependence and trauma, and lack of social support, and face threats to their safety and survival including violence and exploitation; and

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WHEREAS, Many factors contribute to LGBT youth homelessness, the most commonly cited reason is identity-based family rejection; and

1 WHEREAS, Homeless LGBT youth face additional daily
2 survival challenges, they also face additional obstacles,
3 including lack of safe emergency housing that is
4 gender-affirming and recognizes transgender identity, lack of
5 social supports in their transition to adulthood, compounded
6 discrimination and harassment based upon sexual orientation
7 and gender expression, and vulnerability to human trafficking;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Reducing the disproportionate percentage of
10 homeless LGBT youth requires our understanding of this issue
11 and the ways in which we can each contribute to a solution; and

12 WHEREAS, Young people are better able to get the support
13 and services they need when community members get involved in
14 preventing and ending youth homelessness; and

15 WHEREAS, LGBT youth homelessness is a national and local
16 community issue; finding solutions depends upon leaders and
17 citizens in Illinois communities, including urban, rural, and
18 suburban communities; and

19 WHEREAS, All citizens should become more aware of LGBT
20 youth homelessness within the community, become more involved
21 in its prevention, and support solutions to ensure that LGBT

1 youth have a safe, nurturing environment; and

2 WHEREAS, The True Colors Fund developed a resource kit
3 identifying guided activities to raise awareness of the issue
4 of LGBT youth homelessness and to build collaborative
5 solutions; and

6 WHEREAS, April 29, 2015 will be the first Forty-to-None Day
7 (aka #40toNoneDay), a national day focused on raising awareness
8 about LGBT youth homelessness; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the 29th
11 day of April as 40-to-None-Day (aka #40toNoneDay) in the State
12 of Illinois and call upon citizens, government agencies, the
13 business community, service providers, advocates, LGBT youth,
14 and elected officials of this State to increase awareness of
15 LGBT youth homelessness and to engage in efforts to end
16 homelessness, thereby strengthening the communities in which
17 we live; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That individual agencies are encouraged to post
19 this resolution on their Internet websites; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 delivered to each member of the Illinois congressional

1 delegation and to the Office of the Governor.